Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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11
ACTION ISO-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EB-07 /020 W
---------- 107155
R 031631Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM
AMCONSUL ANTWERP
SECSTATE WASHDC 7873

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 08623

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BE, LU, NL
SUBJECT: POLLUTION CONTROL TRADE MISSION

REF: USDOC 15233

1. CANCELLATION OF THE POLLUTION CONTROL TRADE MISSION ONE WORKINUGY PRIOR TO ITS YCHEDULED ARRIVAL IN BELGIUM IS A DISTRESSING EXAMPLE OF THE WASTE OF LIMITED RESOURCES. THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL (FAM 372.2) STATES THAT MISSIONS "OFFER THE POST THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CONTACT" WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND "FOCUS ATTENTION ON U.S. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY INVOLVED". COMMERCE SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT THE WAY THE PLANNING FOR THIS MISSION WAS CONDUCTED FORCUSSED DECIDEDLY UNFAVORABLE ATTENTION ON OUR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.

2. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT AT EACH STAGE OF THE PLANNING FOR THE MISSION THIS EMBASSY WAS OBLIGED TO PLEAD FOR INFORMATION ON THE MISSION BUDGET AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION. A REVIEW OF CABLE TRAFFIC SEEMS TO US TO ILLUSTRATE THAT THE MISSION WAS FACING RECRUITMENT PROBLEMS WHICH PUT ITS VIABILITY IN DOUBT. BY CONTRAST WE WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE GREAT INTEREST IN THE MISSION SHOWN IN BELGIUM AND BY EVERY INDICATION
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THAT IT WOULD PROVE VERY SUCCESSFUL AND TIMELY.

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3. THIS EMBASSY'S RELATIONS WITH SOME OF ITS PRINCIPLA CONTACTS IN THE COMMERCIAL FIELD SUCH AS FABRIMETAL, FECHEMIE, THE BRUSSELS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE LIEGE SPI, NOT TO MENTION OUR REPUTATION WITHIN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY CAN ONLY SUFFER. WE FACE DOUBTS AND SCEPTICISM IN THE FUTURE WHEN WE COME TO THEM FOR HELP WITH OTHER PROJECTS.

4. FINALLY I NOTE THAT THE TIME OF ONE OFFICER AND SEVERAL LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAS BEEN MONOPOLIZED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS IN THE PLANNING FOR THE MISSION. THIS IS TIME WHICH WE CAN ILL AFFORD IF WE ARE TO ADHERE TO OUR ENGAGEMENTS OUTLINED IN THE CCP. RENNER

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Subject: POLLUTION CONTROL TRADE MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, BE, LU, NL
To: EUR
LUXEMBOURG
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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